

Recently this species has been collected from Entrance Island (North Andamans) thus extending its distribution in Andaman islands; many species are common to north-east India, Burma and Thailand.

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* can be easily recognised by the inflorescence with its terete, basally tapering peduncle and its laterally compressed, flexuous, complanate-alate rachis. A short account of the species is presented here for easy identification.

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* (Breda) Bl. & Reichb. f. in Hamb. Gartenz. 16: 116. 1860; Kurz in J. As. Soc. Beng. 45(3): 156. 1876; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 29. 1890; C.E. Fischer in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 12: 141. 1938; Sweet in Amer. Orch. Soc. Bull. 38: 512. 1969 & Genus *Phalaenopsis* 55. 1980; Karthik. et al., Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 163. 1989. *Polychilos cornu-cervi* Breda in Kuhl & Van Hasselt, Gen. & Sp. Orchid. t. 1.

Epiphytic; roots profusely produced from rhizome-like stem, fleshy, flexuous, glabrous; stem short, completely enclosed by imbricating leaf-sheaths. Leaves 2-4, 9-20 x 3.0-5.5 cm, fleshy, oblong-ligulate to oblong-oblongate, obtuse. Inflorescences 1- 2,

11.0-27.5 cm long; peduncle terete with 1 or 2 small cauline sheaths; rachis simple, laterally compressed, commonly many-flowered; bracts alternate, distichous, ovate-cucullate. Fruits c. 4.0 x 0.4 cm, linear, fruiting pedicel c. 0.5 cm long.

**Illustration:** J.J. Sm., Orch. Java. Fig. - Atlas pt. 5, fig. 415. 1912; Seidenfaden & Smitinand, Orch. Thailand 4: fig. 403. 1963 & Orch. Digest 36: 168. 1972; Katoh & Futakuchi, Orchids in Colour pl. 114, fig. 4. 1974.

**Specimen examined:** INDIA : North Andamans, Entrance Island, 8 November 1990, P. Lakshminarasimhan and L.N. Ray 15199 (PBL).

**Ecology:** Rare in the tropical inland forests.

We are thankful to Dr B.D. Sharma, Director, Botanical Survey of India, for facilities and to Dr J.L. Ellis, Deputy Director, Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Circle, Port Blair, for encouragement.

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January 30, 1991

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#### 40. INFESTATION OF *PARROTIOPSIS JACQUEMONTIANA* BY *LEUCOMA SERICEA* (LYMANTRIIDAE) IN DACHIGAM NATIONAL PARK, KASHMIR

During a four month stay in Kashmir in 1989, caterpillars of *Leucoma sericea* (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae) were observed infesting *Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana*. This is a perennial plant occurring on the slopes of Dachigam National Park and areas around it.

Inside the park boundary this plant is more abundant on the south and south-west facing slopes, besides covering a large chunk of the main Dachigam nalla.

The caterpillar is greyish yellow and the moth is white in colour; the latter was identified in the

entomology section of Aligarh Muslim University. The caterpillar is a voracious feeder on leaves and the infestation reaches its peak in July, when most of the infested slopes look brown as almost all leaves are eaten up.

This plant is of vital importance for the conservation and management of the park. It provides excellent cover for the rare hangul *Cervus hanglu* and to various other fauna of the National Park.

February 21, 1990

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